

HONORING MEL J. RIDDILE, NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

## HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mel Riddile, the MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National High School Principal of the Year.

Dr. Riddile, the principal for J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church Virginia, was named National High School Principal of the Year and will be recognized in Washington, DC, during the Principals' Institute for State and National Principals of the Year on November 11–12, 2005.

Dr. Riddile received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from George Mason University. He received his doctorate in Educational Leadership from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. He has served Fairfax County Public Schools for over 33 years, first as a social studies teacher and then serving as assistant principal in three area Fairfax County High Schools before taking the head position at J.E.B. Stuart High School in 1997.

He is a member of numerous educational associations including the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. He has been invited to speak all over the country to share his experience with other educational leaders, and has been recognized by the International Baccalaureate of North America and featured in National Geographic Magazine.

During his tenure, J.E.B. Stuart High School moved from being one of the lowest achieving schools in Fairfax County to becoming a NASSP Breakthrough High School. Dr. Riddile's campaign to achieve literacy for all students has been a success. He integrated annual pre- and post-testing of all students; and established a reading lab and mandatory after-school tutoring for at-risk students. He and his staff developed a differentiated approach to increase adult and student contact outside the normal classroom setting, creating a school of achievement while creating a sense of community. The school now serves as a national model for serving disadvantaged and diverse students. In addition, Dr. Riddile has worked with the PTSA in successfully growing the school's scholarship fund, to help graduates achieve their dreams of higher education.

Dr. Riddile has dedicated his life to ensuring that all students are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 33 years, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students and truly deserves recognition for his achievements. I am proud to know him and to have the opportunity to work with him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Dr. Mel Riddile and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

HONORING GENERAL NARINDER SINGH, A FREEDOM ACTIVIST

## HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I note the passing of General Narinder Singh, a leader in the struggle for freedom for the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. General Narinder Singh was an army general who became an activist for his people in his retirement. He frequently spoke out against the atrocities committed against the Sikhs in India. On a visit to the United States, General Narinder Singh said that "Punjab is a police state." Unfortunately, it is still a police state today.

Punjab police recently have arrested numerous Sikhs, held them incommunicado, and tortured them on charges of militancy. This is the same "militancy" that India claimed to have eradicated several years ago! In June, 35 Sikhs were arrested and many more were charged for making speeches in support of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, and raising the Sikh flag in front of over 30,000 cheering Sikhs. Even a former Member of Parliament was arrested for making a speech. The same thing happened in January at a protest on India's Republic Day. Mr. Speaker, does this sound like the act of a tyranny or a democracy?

We must not just watch while India forcibly suppresses the freedom of Sikhs and other minorities. The time has come to stop our aid and our trade with India. It is also time to enact a formal resolution calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. The essence of democracy is the right of self-determination.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently published an excellent press release on the passing of General Narinder Singh, which I would like to place in the RECORD.

### COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN

#### IN MEMORY OF GENERAL NARINDER SINGH

Washington, DC, October 12, 2005—General Narinder Singh, a strong spokesman for an independent Khalistan, died recently. He was 86. He served in the army and became an activist for the Sikh Nation after his retirement. He spoke out for human rights and for freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. General Narinder Singh travelled to countries such as the United States in support of these causes. He participated in political events in Punjab, Khalistan, aimed at securing freedom for the Sikh nation. "General Narinder Singh will be sorely missed," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "We salute his courage and we honor his memory. On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I extend deepest sympathies to his family." Dr. Aulakh said.

General Narinder Singh correctly called Punjab "a police state," and it remains one to this day. India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. In addition, India has also killed more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, as well as tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits ("Untouchables," the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia), Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian gov-

ernment's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." The Movement Against State Repression (MASR) reported that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, some since 1984! Amnesty International reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of more than 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. The flag of Khalistan was also raised on Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail.

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formally apologized to the Sikh Nation for the genocide against the Sikhs in November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi and surrounding areas while Sikh police were locked in their barracks and Indian radio and television called for more Sikh blood. This apology establishes the Indian government's responsibility for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. India must end its occupation of Khalistan, which is the root cause of this genocide. Sikhs are a sovereign nation and they are fighting for their freedom.

In September 1995, Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa following his report exposing the government's policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Democracies don't commit genocide."

"The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. Last year, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh signed a bill cancelling the agreements that allowed the diversion of Punjabi water to non-riparian states. The bill asserted the sovereignty of Punjab. Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, a former Member of Parliament, held a seminar on Khalistan in Punjab. It was well attended and featured outstanding presentations, including one by Professor Gurtej Singh, IAS, Professor of Sikhism. There have been several recent marches through Punjab demanding the establishment of an independent Khalistan. "The Khalistan movement is on the rise and India is on the verge of disintegration," Dr. Aulakh said.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. In Forbes magazine, Steve Forbes wrote that India is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "India is not a homogeneous state," he wrote. "Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to fall apart just as Austria-Hungary and the others did.